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GLOBAL MECHANISM

- (b) REVIEW, PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 22, PARAGRAPH 2(D) OF THE CONVENTION, OF THE REPORT ON POLICIES, OPERATIONAL MODALITIES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE GLOBAL MECHANISM, AND THE PROVISION OF GUIDANCE TO IT

Addendum

Report on the operational strategy of the Global Mechanism

Note by the secretariat

1. At its third session, the Conference of the Parties, by its decision 9/COP.3 on the first review of policies, operational modalities and activities of the Global Mechanism (GM), inter alia:

(a) Decided to give further consideration to the operational strategy of the Global Mechanism at its fourth session and requested the Managing Director to prepare a document on the operational strategy based on comments, suggestions and proposals made during the third session, as well as on written submissions by the Parties received no later than 31 March 2000, and to submit that document for consideration and a compendium of submissions;

(b) Recommended that the Global Mechanism develop, as part of the operational strategy for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fourth session, an information and communication strategy, which will aim to facilitate contact with Parties and other actors, increase awareness of the Convention, and promote participation in its implementation.

2. Annexed hereto is the report on the operational strategy of the Global Mechanism to the fourth session of the Conference of the Parties. A compendium of submissions from Parties and Observers is contained in ICCD/COP(4)/4/Add.1 (B).

3. The report of the President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to the fourth session of the Conference of the Parties is contained in ICCD/COP(4)/4, while ICCD/COP(4)/4/Add.2 contains the report of the Facilitation Committee of the Global Mechanism for consideration by the Conference of the Parties.

¹ ICCD/COP(4)/1.

The Report of The Managing Director of The Global Mechanism
on the Operational Strategy: A Framework for Action²

² The report is reproduced without formal editing by the Convention Secretariat.

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INTRODUCTION

1. The Conference of the Parties at its third session held in Recife, Brazil, in November 1998, considered the Operational Strategy (OS) of the Global Mechanism (GM). By decision 9/COP.3, the COP requested that the Managing Director prepare a document on the Operational Strategy, based on comments, suggestions and proposals made during the third session and on written comments from the Parties received prior to 31 March 2000, and to submit the document for the consideration of the COP, with a compendium of the comments received.

2. In response to the above-mentioned request, the present document is submitted to the COP for consideration at its fourth session. It updates the progress made in further developing the Operational Strategy, thus providing the GM with a clear focus and direction with which to serve the Parties and the stakeholders. A compendium of comments received from the Parties is contained in ICCD/COP(4)/4/Add.1 (B).

3. Prior to its formal submission, this document was circulated to all the members of the Facilitation Committee and incorporates clarifications on the scope and functions of the GM provided by them. In order to facilitate consideration by the COP of the progress made in further elaboration of the Operational Strategy of the GM, this report refers to the key chapters contained in ICCD/COP(3)/CRP.3.

4. By decision 9/COP.3, para. 23, the Parties decided that the second review of policies, operational modalities and activities of the Global Mechanism would take place at the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties in 2003. On the basis of the above-mentioned decision, the COP 4 may wish to request the GM to prepare a revised version of its Operational Strategy, taking into account the experience gained within the evolving environment in which the Convention is being implemented, during the period leading up to the sixth session of the COP.

I. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

5. This report summarizes the progress made by the GM in further developing its Operational Strategy. It charts the course for GM operations based on its comparative advantages.

6. A fundamental assumption underlying the Operational Strategy is that the realization of its goals and objectives will depend on the actions of the Parties as well as those of the GM. The GM will continue to seek effective partnerships and build on existing processes and ongoing initiatives that address specific issues of direct relevance to its mandate and will aim at achieving tangible results, particularly at the local level.

7. In order to be able to fulfil its functions as described above, the GM must have resources of its own. For example, the process of creating partnerships and supporting the establishment of agreements between affected developing country Parties to the Convention and the developed country Parties involves the organization of seminars and workshops, and the preparation of supporting documentation and consultancy services related to all these tasks. Catalytic resources are invested by the GM in all these activities. The GM also needs resources to be able to support, on a co-financing basis, the initiation of action programme formulation and implementation. Moreover, the development of the information system of the GM requires investments to ensure that it becomes a participatory and decentralized knowledge management system in support of the process of matching supply with demand, providing valuable financial information for the Convention implementation. The development and implementation of a vigorous communications strategy and outreach programme also requires substantial resources and collaboration from the stakeholders.

II. THE CONTEXT: GLOBAL TRENDS AND CHALLENGES³

8. The environment within which the Global Mechanism is operating has been under continuous change since the Convention was ratified. This chapter highlights some distinct features and challenges that have been taken into consideration by the GM, including the global scenario and specific external factors that will have a bearing on the its operations in the medium- and long-term, as summarized below:

(a) *Increased population and urbanization:* The latest United Nations projections estimate that the world population will reach 7.2 billion in 2015. Ninety per cent of this increase will occur in the developing countries. By 2015, Africa's population will be 35 per cent above its 1991 level, while that of the other developing regions will be close to 35 per cent above the 1991 level. Urbanization is rapidly increasing in developing countries, and by 2010 more people will be living in urban areas, than in rural areas.

(b) *Persistence of poverty:* Recent world estimates indicate that 2.1 billion people were living on less than \$ 1 per day in 1998, and 2.8 billion were living on \$ 2 per day. These estimates are practically the same as those for 1987. Thus, despite the changes over the past decades, the number of the poor declined substantially in the mid-1990s, to rise again in the late 1990s. Sub-Saharan Africa is the region with the largest share of people living below the \$ 1/day threshold (46.3 per cent), while South Asia is home to (40 per cent) of those living on less than the \$ 2/day. In Latin America and the Caribbean, poverty rates remained fairly constant throughout the 1990s (16 per cent). Moreover, poverty remains a rural phenomenon, accounting for about 80 per cent of the total population in poverty. Significant shares of the rural poor live in less-favoured areas; indeed recent estimates show that about half of the total rural poor population live in the dry lands affected by desertification. Economic growth in the coming years is expected to be more sustained in the developing world as a whole than in developed countries, although there will be considerable disparities between countries. Change in the global distribution of wealth among developed and developing regions, however, is likely to be slow. At present 78 per cent of world gross domestic product (GDP) is accounted for by high-income countries, which have 15 per cent of the world's population, while only 2.5 per cent come from low-income countries, which are home to 35 per cent of the world's population. Thus, the prospects for reducing rural poverty - in particular in the dry lands - over the coming decade, is conditioned by major changes in the global economy to contain slow growth and rising inequalities.

(c) *Water scarcity:* Growing water scarcity in a context of demographic growth will have a profoundly adverse impact on food production and living standards, first and foremost in climatic areas covered by the Convention. Falling water tables, aquifer depletion due to the advent of powerful pumps and the consequences of irrigated farming such as water logging, salting and silting are threatening the sustainability of food harvesting. Industry and urbanization demands for water use are further intensifying the competition between cities and countryside.

(d) *Changing Nature and Level of ODA:* The last decade has witnessed a profound change in the structure and level of agricultural ODA. Bilateral aid agencies have increasingly been promoting partnerships between their institutions and those in developing countries as a means of increasing the efficiency of assistance, while the level of available aid resources is shrinking, in real terms. Moreover, the priorities of bilateral aid agencies

³ This Chapter refers to the chapter of the Operational Strategy bearing the same title.

have also changed both geographically and sectorally. In practice, this means that any initiative to implement the Convention is confronted by increasing competition for a shrinking development assistance envelope. Furthermore, the UNCCD does not rely on a fully-fledged financial instrument specifically created to finance its implementation. Under these circumstances, the UNCCD implementation represents a challenge as well as an opportunity for both developing and developed countries in terms of defining a viable framework of shared but differentiated responsibilities, where the necessary domestic efforts of developing countries will be matched by clear financial commitments of developed countries. While calling on affected Parties to exercise more effective use of existing financial resources and institutional capacities, the UNCCD also calls on developed countries to bring new financial resources for the implementation of the Convention.

(e) **Advances in Science and Technology:** Advances in the fields of biotechnology, communications and information sciences are rapidly defining a new techno-economic paradigm in developed countries, which is having a profound impact on social organization and production patterns. New boundaries and opportunities are being generated in every field of human activity. Agriculturally based economic and social processes are among those most affected by these new developments. By their nature, these new tools could be deployed to generate greater diversity and better quality of crops adaptable to the marginal conditions prevailing in subsistence agriculture, as well as to improve food production and processing systems in commercial agriculture. The significance of these trends will depend on the institutional and economic environment within which the technologies are developed and applied. So far, however, biotechnology and communication technologies seem to have a relatively modest impact in most developing countries, particularly on smallholders' cultivating marginal lands. Moreover, their increasingly private nature and the smallholders' low investment capacity appear to limit the interest of biotechnology and communication industries in harnessing the new tools to the smallholders' concerns, thereby restricting the latter's access to new products.

9. The GM is therefore sensitive to the economic, social and conceptual frameworks within which the stakeholders and the Parties to the Convention make decisions. The GM's ability to seek new synergies through which to implement the Convention depends on its Operational Strategy being relevant and realistic in the face of such emerging trends. Such a strategy will foster partnerships between affected and developed country Parties, between rich and poor countries, between national and international agencies, between the formal and informal sectors, between the public and private sectors, with each contributing its comparative advantages. Such partnerships are, in turn, required in the effort to bring the implementation of the Convention to new horizons that can address and incorporate the emerging new global challenges to the benefit of the poorest segment of the population, which is most affected by land degradation.

III. GUIDING PRINCIPLES GOVERNING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OPERATIONAL STRATEGY⁴

10. The guiding principles refer to the process through which the results of the international agreements embodied in the UNCCD process to date are transferred into decisive action at national, subregional and regional levels.

11. The GM approach in fulfilling its institutional mandate in conformity with the directives of the COP and with the support of the Facilitation Committee is

⁴ This chapter refers to the chapter entitled "The Approach" in the Operational Strategy, in which a number of Guiding Principles are specified.

to apply the following guiding principles, which are embodied in the Convention and CDP decisions:

(a) **Inclusiveness:** The GM is an all-inclusive, non-monopolistic financing mechanism geared towards promoting multi-source, and multi-channel mobilization of resources. Although acting on request, the GM seeks to ensure that the interests and concerns of all potential actors are accounted for. This requires extensive effort on the part of the GM to reach out to the various constituencies at both local and global levels, including civil society institutions, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the private sector and community organizations;

(b) **Selectivity:** The GM's efforts are directed at supporting initiatives, to which it can add high value, being primarily pro-active and responsive to the needs of affected country Parties. The GM has therefore been careful in selecting its entry points, giving priority to those where the chances of a successful impact are more realistic and where it can build on relevant interventions by its development partners, without compromising its universality. In this context the Global Mechanism recognizes the need to focus primarily on initiatives launched by the Parties within the UNCCD implementation process;

(c) **Synergism and partnership:** The GM identifies itself as one of several actors with shared responsibility for the implementation of the Convention. The comparative advantage of the GM comes from the mandate entrusted to it by the Convention. Given the principle that it should be a lean and efficient operation, it has to draw on other institutions, especially those of its Facilitation Committee (FC), including its housing institution (International Fund for Agricultural Development), and more broadly, the United Nations system-wide capacities and facilities, to be able to discharge its functions. Its successful impact is therefore conditioned by its capacity to build synergies and partnerships to complement the efforts of other institutions and actors. By leveraging their inputs, the GM aims to enhance the total impact of their dedicated efforts to implement the Convention;

(d) **Multiplier effect:** On the basis of the above principles, the GM invests its own resources to foster partnerships and synergies and thereby leverages the resources of its partners for the implementation of the Convention. Such catalytic investments mobilize greater resource flows, leading to a considerable multiplier effect on GM investments;

(e) **Primacy of NAFs and Local Area Development Programmes (LADPs):** The GM views NAFs and their related LADPs as being of strategic importance for the successful development and implementation of the Convention. At the same time, they are also of strategic importance for the successful development and implementation of subregional and regional action programmes (SRAPs and RAPs). Without an effective and functional base at local and national levels, there is limited scope for operating successfully at subregional and regional levels. In turn, an effective and functional base at local and national levels will gradually benefit from cooperative measures taken at subregional and regional levels;

(f) **Subsidiarity:** The GM perceives the principle of subsidiarity, by which the relationships between NAFs, SRAPs and RAPs are planned and managed at the lowest possible level. Thus, natural resource degradation issues, restricted to the domain of an individual country, must be addressed within the context of the NAF, while issues that transcend national boundaries (such as shared water resources, migratory pests, desertification monitoring, and sharing of experiences on policy implementation across borders) are to be addressed through SRAPs and RAPs. The GM will intervene in a targeted manner to support initiatives at the appropriate level;

(g) Continuous learning: The GM continues to evolve through a process of innovation and evaluation of new approaches and mechanisms for effective resource mobilization. Its relevance and the value it adds to the Convention process depends on its ability to remain at the cutting edge of the resource mobilization processes, and its capacity to disseminate and share analytical information and lessons learned, on successes and failures, with the stakeholders and the Parties to the Convention.

IV. THE FUNCTIONS¹

12. The framework that defines the Operational Strategy revolves around three axes and the ultimate and fundamental interaction between them. The first is directed at internalizing UNCCD objectives into the policies and strategies of the affected country Parties (the demand side). The second is directed at mainstreaming the UNCCD into the relevant interventions of the development partners (the supply side). The third is directed at the mobilization of the external environment with the purpose of effectively involving it in the implementation of the UNCCD (the outreach side). The GM's mandate and main thrust is to combine the effects of actions taken along the three axes with the overall goal of boosting the total resources deployed in achieving the Convention's objectives.

A. The demand side

1. Contribution to the mainstreaming of UNCCD objectives within national strategies for poverty reduction

13. Formulation of desertification control strategies requires an interdisciplinary and multi-sectoral approach, which places such strategies centrally within strategic frameworks for poverty reduction. Competition for natural resources, in the face of increasing privatization and globalization, is placing greater demands on the regulatory functions of the State. Consequently, national policies and regulatory frameworks must increasingly respond to domestic demand on resources and be consistent with international frameworks.

14. Land degradation, water scarcity, pollution and salinization, destruction of forests, greenhouse gas emissions, and loss of genetic resources and biodiversity threaten the well-being of present and future generations. Fragile ecosystems, in particular, are in the frontline of desertification. Formulation of national action programmes under the UNCCD must take account of all these issues to ensure the utmost relevance of such programmes within the broader national development policy framework and hence bring the issue of desertification and land degradation to the forefront in the development debate and process.

15. The GM will thus seek cooperation with relevant United Nations agencies and Multilateral Financing Institutions (MFIs), with specialized institutions and mechanisms, and with the EC member institutions, to support the mainstreaming of UNCCD objectives into national development policies and strategies. It will also help to identify opportunities for capacity-building and forge collaborative arrangements between interested Parties to build the institutional and human resource capacity needed to meet these challenges, taking into account ongoing initiatives.

¹ The Operational Strategy submitted by the GM to COP 4 outlined the functions, priorities, and entry points for GM interventions. This chapter elaborates further on such functions, based on the GM's own experiences to date and its extensive consultations with the Parties and various stakeholders.

16. Within the process of NAP formulation and implementation in the developing country Parties, the responsibility for coordination rests with the national coordinating bodies, which are often located in the ministries of the environment. Yet, in order to address desertification issues adequately, sectoral Ministries, such as those responsible for agriculture, livestock, water and rural development, must be involved. Moreover, the financing of UNCCD implementation is closely linked to the more efficient and effective use of existing financial resources, which necessitates the involvement of the ministries of finance and planning in the process, at an early stage. Thus, it contributes to placing desertification issues high on the national development agenda. The DM's task is to facilitate this process and contribute to rendering operational the interface between sectoral and national strategies.

17. Likewise, the DM facilitates dialogue between Governments and local communities within the context of addressing land degradation issues. The DM's added value in facilitating this process lies in its ability to support these processes financially, to forge partnerships and to undertake preparatory work at various levels. The degree of success of the DM's input will be measured in terms of the multiplier effect on the resources it invested in this process.

9. The Supply Side

1. Mainstreaming UNCCD objectives in development partners' strategies

18. The DM, in close cooperation with the members of the Facilitation Committee, is seeking to mainstream UNCCD objectives within these institutions. Through its hosting institution, UNED, it has already started to forge close operational links with the regional operational divisions of UNED through participation in selective programme design missions and interaction with the sector teams to facilitate the convergence between investment plans and opportunities for desertification control in specific countries. A similar effort has been initiated with the World Bank through its country assistance strategy (CAS), and opportunities are being pursued with the regional banks. The European Union (EU) through the provisions of the Lomé Convention on a basis close to poverty reduction in Africa, Asia and the Caribbean. Through its interaction with the Commission's secretariat, the DM seeks to explore complementarities and synergies that can mainstream the Convention's objectives within EU-funded development assistance operations.

2. Mobilization of the DM's own resources to support the process of UNCCD financing

19. The DM's own resources in support of Action Programme formulation and implementation are allocated upon the advice of a technical advisory committee. The objectives of DM grants are multiple and include undertaking projects and catalytic actions to promote financial resource mobilization; identifying and promoting actions to optimize the use of existing resources; devising and promoting arrangements to channel resources to affected country Parties; facilitating the establishment of joint funding arrangements to support national, subregional and regional action programme processes; "kick-starting" action programme implementation by providing initial co-financing.

3. Exploring innovative approaches to mobilize new and additional resources

20. One of the main functions of the DM is to be engaged in strategic initiatives that can provide new and additional resources to finance the Convention. In this context, article 20 of the Convention draws attention to the Global Environment Facility (GEF), articles 4 and 20 draw attention to the debt burden of affected developing countries, while article 3 refers to interaction with other Conventions. The DM has been exploring opportunities to direct a greater allocation of GEF resources into implementing the Convention,

and in so doing, has established a strong relationship with the GEF secretariat and its implementing agencies. Together with the Asian Development Bank (AsDB), the GM will assist affected countries to prepare a pipeline of GEF-eligible land degradation control projects in Asia. In addition to several initiatives described above, the GM is seeking to operationalize the interface between SBAs/RAFs and the GEF focal areas. The newly adopted Operation Programme 12 of the GEF on Integrated Ecosystem Management is of particular interest in this context. Its adoption does, in itself, reflect an interest on the part of GEF to support activities related to desertification and land degradation.

(a) Carbon sequestration (CS) offers new opportunities for funding the Convention since soil organic matter and the productivity of the soil itself, particularly in drylands, is closely related to soil carbon content. Rehabilitation of degraded agricultural land and rangelands into productive lands through carbon sequestration is therefore of interest to the GM. The underlying financial rationale is that the cost of reducing CO₂ emissions in developed countries is often higher than that of absorbing CO₂ through reforestation and land improvement initiatives in developing countries. Moreover, current research has demonstrated the potentially high rates of CO₂ sequestration in rangelands and other drylands. The new approach for integrated ecosystem management (IEM) in dryland areas therefore offers the potential for tapping new and additional resources in support of the Convention. Carbon trading is already taking place and the GM aims at becoming a partner in this process thereby securing new and additional funding for Convention implementation. The GM works in close cooperation with IFAD and FAO as well as with the World Bank on this issue. The USAID and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and through them a number of United States based universities and other research institutions are also involved in this work.

(b) Debt relief initiatives are increasingly shaping the relationships between developing and developed countries in respect to development assistance. The possibility of using the instruments of the Paris Club and the highly indebted poor countries (HIPC) of the World Bank, in order to direct part of the debt relief resources to support the Convention, is being explored. Given that it is now accepted that countries benefiting from debt relief initiatives must link this to strategies for poverty reduction, the UNCCD, with its national action strategies, has a potentially central role in negotiations on debt relief. To this effect, the GM with the support of IFAD and the World Bank is exploring opportunities for placing the Convention at the centre of national poverty reduction strategies, as they evolve. Moreover, the GM, in collaboration with IFAD, FAO and WFP is exploring approaches to allocating part of the relieved bilateral debt to UNCCD implementation, through the pilot model developed in collaboration with the Government of Italy.

(c) Fostering relationships with the international environmental conventions is a main task assigned to the secretariat and the GM as the two subsidiary bodies of the Convention, on which they will cooperate closely. In particular, article 8 of the Convention calls on them to develop approaches and opportunities for cooperation with relevant international agreements, particularly the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). In addition, linkages are also being developed with the Convention on International Wetlands (Ramsar Convention). In this context, the GM will seek opportunities for synergies leading to possible mobilization of resources specifically available for reaching the objectives of these international agreements. The GM is therefore interested in intensifying its dialogue with the mechanisms associated with these Conventions.

C. Matching demand with supply

20. Mainstreaming the objectives of the Convention in the national strategies of affected country Parties and in the development strategies of MFIs, bilateral development cooperation agencies, other international development institutions, including NGOs, and the private sector is a prerequisite for successful resource mobilization and hence, the implementation of the Convention. The GM's strength thus lies in its capacity to forge and strengthen such partnerships, so as to increase resource flows for the implementation of the Convention.

1. Support for actions leading to cooperation and coordination of CCCC implementation

21. The functions of the GM as set out in article 21 of the Convention, and in Decision 24/COP.1 and its annex, define the scope of GM operations. High priority is given to its catalytic and brokering role in resource mobilization. The importance of this function is primarily related to the need to ensure a flow of significant domestic and external resources to implement the Convention. The financial support provided by the GM with its own resources aims to strengthen and accelerate the ongoing processes thus capitalizing on established financial mechanisms with the purpose of creating synergies, and not duplicating existing efforts.

22. While the GM does not assume direct responsibility for developing and implementing NAAs, SPAs and PAs, it supports an interactive and participatory approach to the establishment of operational linkages between action programmes and other relevant initiatives supported by domestic resources and/or bilateral and multilateral agencies. It also supports the building of partnerships and strategic alliances between institutions whose mandates are relevant to action programmes at national, subregional and regional levels.

23. The subsequent step in the process is to facilitate the matching of resource needs with available domestic and external resources. These may come from different sources (domestic, bilateral, multilateral, private sector, international foundations and NGOs), and take different forms (parallel, co-financing, grants and loans), contributed either directly to the country or through the mechanisms of financial institutions. The flexibility of this approach is key to the effectiveness of the resource mobilization process.

2. Creating partnerships and alliances to increase financial flows

24. Round tables: The GM actively participates in the required coalition of institutions needed to support and finance the organization of consultative meetings between countries and donors on specific Action Programmes at national, subregional and regional levels. Such consultative meetings form a cornerstone of GM support to match resource availability with financial and technical demand for implementation of action programmes. Such meetings are organized at ministerial level and at national, subregional and regional levels, involving the environment, agriculture, other technical ministries as well as ministers of finance and with the participation of multilateral and bilateral funding agencies. Such meetings will focus on increasing the flow of domestic and external investments in the drylands of the regions of affected country Parties.

25. Regional and subregional workshops: In preparation for the process described above the GM, as requested by the Conference of the Parties at its third session, is organizing, in coordination with the secretariat, and with the support and participation of bilateral as well as multilateral donor organizations, regional and subregional workshops involving representatives of countries and subregional and regional organizations, on procedures and approaches to access existing financial mechanisms for the benefit of Convention implementation.

3. Knowledge management system for the collection and dissemination of information

27. The development of a knowledge management system in support of matching supply with demand for financing and as a source of information on available resources and financial flows is one of the main functions of the GM.

28. A system of this type, the Financial Information Engine on Land Degradation (FIELD), will underpin the overall resource mobilization process and facilitate partnership building by providing a single point of access to relevant financial information that will be used in support of decision-making.

29. The design of the FIELD system is the result of extensive consultations with the Parties to the UNCCD and the stakeholders. Its technical development is being carried out through a collaborative effort between the GM, IFAD and FAO-World Agriculture Information Centre (WALICENT). The information for the FIELD system is being collected from existing databases in collaboration with MFIs, United Nations agencies, EU, OECD/DAC, bilateral development cooperation agencies, governments of affected developing country Parties, NGOs, academic institutions, foundations, networks, and other organizations and bodies dealing with land degradation issues. In this context, the GM is establishing collaboration with relevant national, subregional and regional information systems on desertification (such as DESELAC in Latin America).

30. FIELD will initially consist of a set of interrelated inventories on UNCCD financing, including (a) available financial resources; (b) a directory of people and institutions; (c) financial needs; (d) project information; and (e) best practices. This system is intended to facilitate access to relevant information on the activities of donor institutions as well as on domestic resource allocations and requirements. In particular, it will provide pointers to original documents or data, as well as a structured summary of the substantive information contained therein.

31. This information will be mainly disseminated via the Internet in the form of an on-line information service accessible from the GM homepage and from other partners' Web sites. In addition, since the level of access to new information technologies remains diverse from country to country, the GM will use other communication tools, such as CD-ROMs and written reports, so that countries with a relatively poor infrastructure can receive information as effectively as possible.

32. FIELD will therefore support decision-making by providing transparency on the status of financing implementation of the Convention, thereby facilitating the identification of resource gaps and allowing for better coordination of activities. It will also allow financial institutions to target resources to support innovative approaches to combating desertification, applying interdisciplinary technical solutions and institutional arrangements aimed at sustainable results.

33. In the next stage of its development, FIELD will collect information on the flow of resources from the private sector, development foundations and NGOs. Benchmarks and performance indicators for the flow of resources will also be developed. These indicators will also be applied to the operations of the GM, to facilitate its management and reporting requirements and provide a baseline against which the performance of the GM can be measured. The efforts of the GM will be directed at constantly improving quality, timeliness, relevance and coverage of the FIELD system.

D. The outreach side

1. Communication and information as an integral part of operations

34. The GM must increase the awareness and understanding of the Convention as part of its resource mobilization efforts. To do so it will develop a flexible approach, responding to both the increasing demand for awareness-raising of the Convention process in general and, more specifically, of the mandate, strategy and activities of the GM. Regarding the information and awareness-raising of the Convention, the GM will rely on the mandate and experience of the UNCCD secretariat. In this regard, and following a recommendation of the Conference of the Parties, the GM and the secretariat will operate on the basis of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by the two institutions, which specifies their respective responsibilities. The GM must therefore build partnerships and alliances that can influence the decision-making processes in donor countries and institutions and in the policy-making agencies of the affected country Parties, in favour of the Convention. The GM must also reach out to the scientific community to seek opportunities and partnerships to enhance the focus of natural resource management research on the issues facing the affected country Parties in implementing the Convention (see below). The GM must also reach out to the international NGO community. Furthermore, the GM needs to expand cooperation with private sector organizations at international, regional and local levels, as represented *inter alia* by chambers of commerce. The multinational private sector organizations that are seeking opportunities within the framework of trade to invest in developing countries could be encouraged to support the Convention in those countries where they are seeking to establish a presence, or contribute through donations under tax-reduction systems. To accelerate this process, the GM will seek different partnerships including possible cooperation with the World Bank/International Financing Corporation (IFC), IFAD and FAO/Investment.

35. With this rationale, and as requested by the Conference of the Parties, the GM is developing its communications and information strategy as a basis for developing and performing these tasks in an efficient manner. The ability of the GM to secure the necessary support to fulfil its mandate depends on the quality and effectiveness of its communications strategy. It must also develop an understanding of, and support for, its objectives among key audiences, of the services it offers both to affected country Parties and developed country Parties. Moreover, this will enhance the transparency and accountability of the operations of the GM. To this end, the GM will work closely with the UNCCD secretariat and concentrate its marketing and awareness-raising activities on issues related to financing the Convention.

36. The GM will present a separate document on its communications strategy. That document will provide the outline according to which a full communications strategy will be developed and a set of communication tools will be designed and produced. During this process the GM will seek active involvement of all its stakeholders, and for this purpose it will solicit input and collaboration at the meetings in which the GM will participate as well as through other means.

2. Building partnerships with research and technology institutes

37. Research is an important tool to support the Convention. Recent trends in priority setting for agricultural research has placed increased emphasis on natural resource management (NRM) research within the Global Strategic Agenda. Moreover, the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) and its network of International Agricultural Research Centers (IARCs) have established strong priorities for addressing NRM issues in collaboration with the National Agricultural Research Institutes (NARIs). The GM is seeking opportunities to promote collaboration on research topics of direct relevance to the Convention. Policy research and analysis of the impact on NRM can further enhance the knowledge and understanding on key factors having an impact

on land degradation processes within different socio-economic settings, and promote extensive understanding of indigenous technologies as the basis for the generation and implementation of appropriate technologies that can be deployed effectively and efficiently through the NAPs.

38. The Global Forum for Agricultural Research (GFAR), hosted by FAO and supported by several donors under the leadership of IFAD, has also placed ecosystem and environmental management of natural resources high on its agenda. The GM will explore opportunities for collaboration with GFAR at its various levels, regional forums, subregional forums and the NARS systems, which involve different stakeholders (public sector, private sector, NGOs, IARCs, agricultural research institutes, farmers associations and donors).

39. IFAD and the World Bank among others have invested significant resources in the development of knowledge management systems that are end-user driven. Moreover, GFAR and the WAICENT of FAO have developed knowledge management systems and information on expert systems based on a very close interaction between databases and their various users (farmers, policy-makers, researchers, extension agents etc.). Through its cooperation with WAICENT and FAO the GM will seek to link into this system in the interest of providing Parties and stakeholders of the Convention with information related to research and technology.

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GLOBAL MECHANISM

- (b) REVIEW, PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 22, PARAGRAPH 2(D) OF THE CONVENTION,
OF THE REPORT ON POLICIES, OPERATIONAL MODALITIES AND ACTIVITIES
OF THE GLOBAL MECHANISM, AND THE PROVISION OF GUIDANCE TO IT

Addendum

Report on the operational strategy of the Global Mechanism

Note by the secretariat

1. In accordance with decision 9/COP.3, annexed hereto is a compendium of submissions received from Parties and Observers.² The report on the operational strategy of the Global Mechanism to the fourth session of the Conference of the Parties is contained in ICCD/COP(4)/4/Add.1 (A).

¹ ICCD/COP(4)/1.

² Reproduced without formal editing by the UNCCD secretariat.

COMMENTS FROM THE PARTIES ON THE OPERATIONAL STRATEGY OF THE
GLOBAL MECHANISM

1. In line with decision 9/COP.3, para 13, the Parties to the Convention decided to "give further consideration to the Operational Strategy of the Global Mechanism (GM) at its fourth session and requests the Managing Director to prepare a document on the Operational Strategy based on comments, suggestions and proposals made during the third session, as well as on written submission by the Parties received no later than 31 March 2000, and to submit that document and a compendium of submissions."

2. In response to this decision, in the second half of February the GM sent a reminder to all Parties to the Convention, along with a copy of the Operational Strategy document. The GM received comments from Portugal on behalf of the European Union, the Arab Center for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Land (ACSAD), and 15 countries, including Peru on behalf of GRULAC. The list of countries and institutions that replied is provided below:

- ACSAD
- Canada
- Cap-Vert
- Chile
- China
- Colombia
- Ecuador
- Egypt
- Guinea Ecuatorial
- Kenya
- Madagascar
- Mali
- Peru on behalf of GRULAC
- Portugal on behalf of the European Union and its Member States
- Senegal
- Turkey
- Turkmenistan

3. The comments received can be subdivided as follows:

- Comments related to the operational modalities and activities of the GM;
- Comments related to the role of the GM in collecting and disseminating information;
- Comments related to the role of the Facilitation Committee (FC) and its relation to the GM;
- Comments related to wording and translations.

4. In conformity with decision 9/COP.3, para. 13, these comments have been taken into account in the Report of the Managing Director on the Operational Strategy. A compendium of the comments received is attached hereby.

ARAB CENTER FOR THE STUDIES OF ARID LAND ZONES AND DRY LAND (ACSAD)

ACSAD comments on the Global Mechanism strategy

1. Specification and definitions of measures which relatively give an early results and encouraging the parties to implement them have to be specified more clearly, these things will encourage funding agencies to mobilize more funds for implementing the Convention.
2. Explanation of how to start with long-term measures and identifying them in each country. This will help in understanding the methodology of these measures for the country of parties, and make them more patient to arrive to positive results.
3. Defining the methodology of mid or long-term strategy, specially those related to enlarging the base of funds necessary for the implementation of the Convention, also the way of investing this funds in long-term projects, in this case we should take into account the projects included in the national plans (NAPS) for combating desertification in the countries.
4. A part of article 21 in the Convention, which said: the Global Mechanism should work according to the request ... We suggest that the work strategy of the Global Mechanism to, follow up the efforts and activities of the parties and supporting them without waiting for their requests, in order to release a smooth and fair implementation of the articles of the convention in the different regions, and to benefit of the technology transfer and knowledge exchange.
5. The flexibility factor is an essential in the strategy, so the strategy should be amended to meet the requirement of the new issues, related to the implementation of the Convention articles, and the necessary measurement and resources, particularly for the preparation and implementation of the work programme.

CANADA

Canadian International Development Agency
Canada's Desertification Convention Office

Canadian reflections on the Operational Strategy of the Global Mechanism

Promoting actions leading to cooperation and coordination

The reflection on the "two-way process" which is the nature of this function is noted. The various documents that the OM has prepared, including this Operational Strategy, are very useful contributions to encourage all the parties to think through their expectations of the GM.

Mobilising and channelling financial resources

We are pleased to see the recognition that financing for the preparation of NAPs, SRAPs and RAPs funded by the GM, is to be from funds made available through voluntary contributions. This is our preference. We are concerned about the potential drain on the resources of the OM (both financial and human) of becoming too implicated in this kind of activity. While it can be argued that there is some value in GM activity in order to leverage/mobilize other funding - Canada is concerned that it may potentially lead the GM into an implementation role from which it will be difficult to extricate itself. This is particularly worrying in language such as appears in 10. Channelling: "the GM may use its own resources to commence project and programme implementation, on a co-financing basis" this kind of activity should definitely have a sunset clause approach.

Analysis and advising on request

Innovative Techniques and Sources of Funds: This aspect of strategic initiatives by the GM to explore the extent to which new and additional funding can be obtained through innovative approaches to financing the Convention and to address the problem of desertification at policy level (enabling initiatives) is of great interest to Canada, in terms of our expectations of the GM.

There is an immediate role for the GM to become involved in the discussions surrounding the GEF, and the related MEAs, particularly the Biodiversity Convention which is currently exploring a joint-programme of work with the Desertification Convention. Particularly of interest is the notion of an international drylands network to be potentially funded by the GEF. Also of interest for further exploration is the link between the Desertification Convention programming and possible future funding related to adaptation under the Climate Change Convention.

These kinds of initiatives are clearly the most challenging for the GM, but have the potential of demonstrating the most value added by the GM. In our opinion this is an entirely appropriate function to be provided for by the GM core budget. (A little unclear what is meant by "The GM's own resources, provided on a voluntary basis" in the document)

The approach

We are concerned about the debate which features in this section (last para. of 18.) in which the GM again wrestles with the issue of use of GM funds for support of action programs and the initiatives derived from them. Again as long as the intention is to be strategic in catalyzing support from appropriate donors, multilaterals, etc. as in 24 and then withdrawing.

The Facilitation Committee

29. We reinforce the statement "The capacity of some of these institutions to contribute financially and technically to the operations of the GM itself, and to the development and implementation of its activities, is of crucial importance."

We would expect to see additional language added to this section of the operational strategy pertaining to the role and function of NGOs in terms of participation on/with the Facilitation Committee (decision 9/COP.3/21) at some future point.

CAP-VERT

Secrétaire Exécutif pour l'Environnement

Stratégie opérationnelle du Mécanisme Mondial de la Convention des Nations Unies sur la lutte contre la désertification

Suite à la demande de commentaires, datée du 25 février 2000, sur Stratégie opérationnelle du Mécanisme Mondial de la Convention des Nations Unies sur la lutte contre la désertification j'ai le plaisir de vous informer que le Cap-Vert donne son accord sur la proposition faite.

CHILE

Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores
Representación Permanente de Chile ante la FAO, el PMA y FIDA

ESTRATEGIA OPERACIONAL DEL MECANISMO MUNDIAL DE LA UNCCD (Observaciones de Chile al documento presentado por el Mecanismo Mundial)

1. Observaciones Generales.

El texto en general cumple perfectamente con lo encomendado por la Secretaría de la UNCCD. Sin embargo, se plantean observaciones específicas que dicen relación con la vinculación que la Convención tiene con algunos temas (no debiera ser solo los suelos), y que no se explicitan suficientemente en el documento. El resto de las observaciones se refieren más bien a la forma de determinar prioridades, de temas y áreas geográficas, en la asignación de recursos que se mencionan en varios puntos del documento.

2. Observaciones específicas.

2.1. Contexto. Punto 3, letra (a), 4ª línea:

Dice: "La Convención reconoce así los vínculos existentes entre las presiones sobre la tierra y los suelos y el crecimiento del empleo y los ingresos..." Se sugiere reemplazar "y los suelos" por "y sus recursos naturales asociados (agua, suelo, vegetación)..." Esto debido a que, en algunas oportunidades, la presión por los recursos hídricos es más fuerte que por el recurso suelo; es el caso de la industria de la minería o de las ciudades en zonas de escasez de recursos hídricos.

2.2. Punto 8. Comercialización y concienciación.

Esta observación apunta más bien a un posible error de traducción. Se propone entonces que la versión en español diga: "Promoción, negociación", en vez de "comercialización", y "Sensibilización", en vez de "concienciación".

2.3. Punto 13. La base de datos.

Se propone incluir también a las "organizaciones de base (campesinas y/o de productores) más destacadas o importantes", para compilar y suministrar información sobre las corrientes y necesidades de asistencia para el desarrollo.

2.4. Punto 14. Promoción de la tecnología.

En la 3ª línea. Se propone suprimir la palabra "conocimientos", y luego de... "prácticas pertinentes"... agregar el siguiente párrafo: "en las diferentes áreas del conocimiento relacionadas con la lucha...". Se sugiere este cambio con el propósito de que sean considerados diferentes aspectos, como el medio ambiente, el económico, el social.

2.5. Punto 21. Establecimiento de prioridades.

En la línea 6ª. Agregar al término del párrafo: "conforme a los criterios indicados por las Partes a la Secretaría y al Mecanismo Mundial".

CHINA

The Secretariat of China National Committee for Implementation of United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (CCICCD)

Considerations of CCICCD to the Operational Strategy for the Global Mechanism of the UNCCD

1. Priority-Setting

On the basis of giving priority to affected African countries, the GM should also give priority to the severely affected developing countries in other

regions. For example, the pasture degradation and shift sand threat in Northeast Asia should be given high priority.

2. Support for Action Programming

It is suggested that GM support individual project or activity in the regional, subregional and national action programmes and ensure the investment on the projects of regional action programme on the basis of periodical evaluation. It is also recommended that GM support some demonstration projects in the typical desertified areas in order to summarize experiences that can be demonstrated and disseminated.

3. The Facilitation Committee

The facilitation committee should have a broader representation absorbing those institutions that have the capability or have provided the financial support on some relevant initiatives or activities. The committee should consider giving periodical evaluation to the contribution of its members in the implementation of the Convention so as to gain the experiences and to facilitate the establishment of substantive partnerships.

COLOMBIA

Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores

Estrategia Operacional del Mecanismo Mundial (MM) de la Convención para la Lucha contra la Desertificación

El MM no debe limitarse a establecer dentro de su estrategia que a corto y mediano plazo se prestará más atención a los países africanos. Si bien en la Convención se establece esta prioridad, es necesario que se tengan también en cuenta las demás regiones y que el MM disponga claramente en su estrategia a partir de cuando va a empezar a trabajar con las demás regiones.

Consideramos importante que el MM incluya dentro de su estrategia la organización de talleres regionales o subregionales en Asia, África y América latina, de acuerdo con lo sugerido en la decisión 9/COP.3.

Es indispensable la creación de la base de datos, por lo que el MM deberá poner una fecha límite para hacerlo. Los países parte afectados deberán tener acceso lo más pronto posible a un inventario de recursos existentes, el cual deberá elaborar el MM.

En la estrategia se establece que el MM utiliza sus propios recursos para apoyar la elaboración de programas de acción. Sería conveniente que los países como el nuestro, que no han hecho su programa de acción sepan como acceder a estos recursos.

Para que haya una efectiva y eficiente movilización y canalización de recursos es indispensable que los países tengan claro el procedimiento que daban seguir para acceder al MM y beneficiarse de sus servicios. Por lo anterior, es conveniente que el MM establezca un procedimiento para que los países accedan a él. De acuerdo con lo discutido en el seno del GRULAC en Recife, es conveniente que el MM designe los enlaces con los Puntos Focales de los países de la Región.

ECUADOR
Ministerio del Ambiente

Comentarios al documento de Estrategia Operacional del Mecanismo Mundial de la Convención

Comentarios generales:

Las características que se enuncian en el párrafo 5 son importantes, y sería conveniente tenerlas presentes al poner en operación el Mecanismo. Se debe destacar el literal b), para dar cuenta de lo que el propio Mecanismo y la Convención contemplan sobre la necesidad de considerar la interacción de factores que originan los procesos de desertificación, de la participación activa de los actores, y la potenciación de esfuerzos y recursos. Es correcto, por lo tanto, plantearse como objetivo primordial del Mecanismo la intermediación y la creación de lazos de asociación, y junto a ello, procurar los medios financieros necesarios.

De igual importancia son los principios rectores establecidos en la Decisión 25/CONF.1, mencionados en el acápite Planteamiento. Es fundamental lo que se expresa en el párrafo 18, a lo que habría que añadir esfuerzos encaminados a que los programas de acción se vinculen de mejor manera con aquellos que se planteen en otros "sectores" y sobre todo, con los esfuerzos por generar políticas de desarrollo sostenible, tal como se menciona en el párrafo 19.

En ese sentido, para una mejor comprensión, se cree adecuado que en el Documento se presenten las características del Mecanismo junto a los principios rectores (incluyendo los párrafos 17 y 18), y a continuación se presenten las distintas funciones.

Así mismo, el tema de Estrategia debería incluir los acápites de Puntos de Partida, Establecimiento de prioridades, y Comité de Facilitación.

Funciones:

Esfera funcional 1: Promoción de actividades que conduzcan a la cooperación y la coordinación.

Sería conveniente ampliar o enriquecer lo planteado bajo creación de lazos de asociación y Comercialización y concienciación. Bajo el primero debería contemplarse esfuerzos para establecer las debidas sinergias con las otras Convenciones, foros e instrumentos relacionados, así como con instancias de los niveles nacionales y regionales (tomar en consideración lo planteado en párrafo 10. Encausamiento). Bajo el segundo, se debería enfatizar en la concienciación sobre los procesos de desertificación y sus causas e interrelaciones a fin de que la Convención - como se pretende - pueda ser reconocida como una plataforma sobre la cual se adopten iniciativas para combatir la desertificación y la degradación de tierras; cabe anotar que no queda muy claro lo que el término "comercialización" está denotando (posiblemente hay un error de traducción, y lo que se quiere decir es promoción, negociación).

Esfera funcional 3: Análisis y Asesoramiento previa petición técnicas innovadoras y fuentes de fondos.

Esta es una función muy importante, y crea la oportunidad para poner en debate métodos novedosos de financiamiento, y retomar y fortalecer mecanismos de canje de deuda.

Si bien es fundamental contar con fondos específicos para la lucha contra la desertificación, la creación de fondos nacionales deberá ser analizada tomando en cuenta la existencia de fondos ambientales nacionales u otros de similar naturaleza, a fin de guardar consistencia con lo expuesto en relación con la coordinación, la interrelación y la inserción de los programas nacionales de lucha contra la desertificación en estrategias ambientales o de desarrollo sostenible nacionales. Es no significa que sea esencial que el Mecanismo cuente con sus propios fondos.

Se considera muy apropiado el seguimiento del Mecanismo de Desarrollo Limpio, y quizá sea conveniente adoptar una actitud más proactiva, en el sentido de participar en los diálogos y análisis de incluir en el MML temas como uso del suelo y cambios de uso del suelo, y conservación de bosque nativo (que está realizando, por ejemplo, el Panel Intergubernamental de Cambio Climático).

Esfera funcional 4: Reunión y difusión de información. (Posible error de traducción: se sugiere que en lugar de "Reunión" se diga: recopilación y compilación)

La base de datos: En la construcción de la base de datos es donde mayor énfasis debe ponerse a la utilización de lo existente y, por lo tanto, a la coordinación. Como punto de partida deberá tomarse la información de los de Acción y los correspondientes proyectos presentados en ellos, que servirá de base para la determinación de necesidades de asistencia para el desarrollo y la asignación de los recursos disponibles. La FAO y la OCDE cuentan con información relevante que debería ser usada de manera inmediata; no se debería esperar a contar con toda la información sistematizada para que el Mecanismo empiece a operar (prf 19).

Si bien es importante que la base de datos sirva "de término de referencia con respecto al cual se medirá la eficiencia futura del Mecanismo Mundial", será necesario contemplar una estrategia o instrumento específico de evaluación del Mecanismo a fin de permitir un proceso de retroalimentación.

Promoción de la tecnología: Dada la importancia del tema se debería contemplar el establecimiento de un mecanismo especial para el efecto, y bajo el enfoque de creación de capacidades locales. Es fundamental lo que se plantea en relación con la creación de una colaboración estrecha con el Comité Científico y Técnico para llevar adelante esta función. Se deberá además tener presente el artículo 18, literal b) de la Convención. Es importante también la referencia hecha a los conocimientos, técnicas y prácticas indígenas y tradicionales, sin embargo esto no necesariamente puede aliviar la carga de trabajo de las mujeres: la carga de trabajo de las mujeres responde a otros factores que deberán tomarse en cuenta en la definición de los Programas de Acción, junto a un enfoque de género.

Estrategia:

Es necesario tener presente que el funcionamiento del Mecanismo Mundial no debe implicar la instauración de un ente burocrático. En ese sentido será fundamental la utilización de las capacidades existentes y mecanismos ágiles, como se contempla en los Principios Rectores (párrafo 16).

Establecimiento de Prioridades:

Para los países de América Latina y el Caribe, es fundamental que este Mecanismo los incluya en su gestión a corto plazo. Sin desconocer el artículo 7, y en función del artículo 21, se debería sugerir que se preste atención a los países de la región siguiendo determinados criterios tales como índices de pobreza y endeudamiento externo.

Puntos de partida para las intervenciones del Mecanismo Mundial. Los llamados "puntos de acceso" son totalmente pertinentes e importantes. En relación con el primero Apoyo a la programación de actividades, se considera oportuno que se enfatice en la necesidad urgente de que se canalicen los recursos para la preparación de los Programas de Acción de aquellos países que aún no disponen de este instrumento.

Se coincide plenamente con lo contemplado en Actividades preparatorias generales. Estas acciones pueden asegurar resultados más óptimos en la aplicación del Convenio. La realización de estudios sobre el impacto de los incentivos directos e indirectos sobre la desertificación es absolutamente necesaria, no sólo para garantizar la utilización de los recursos disponibles, sino sobre todo para la definición de políticas más integrales e intersectoriales y el desarrollo de acciones que permitan prevenir procesos de desertificación y degradación del suelo.

El enfoque dado a iniciativas estratégicas es de vital importancia para los países del Sur, en tanto -por un lado- en varios foros internacionales el planteamiento sobre financiamiento nuevo y complementario no es acogido, y -por otro- ya que es urgente que se tomen medidas para aliviar el peso de la deuda externa de los países en desarrollo.

Comité de Facilitación:

Sería necesario que se expliciten los mecanismos operativos del Comité, niveles de decisión, canales de comunicación e interacción, etc. Se deberá evitar la superposición de funciones, la preponderancia o mayor autoridad de un miembro sobre los demás. Así mismo será conveniente que se establezcan mecanismos transparentes de información, y si es necesario de rendición de cuentas.

EGYPT

Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency

We have read the document concerning the operational strategy of the Global Mechanism with due care and concentration. Our first impression is that the document is good and comprehensive. It reflects a good understanding of the functions of the GM. Moreover, it projects ways and means of fulfilling reasonable objectives over short and long periods of time. You deserve a considerable praise for producing such a document.

The following three points may be considered for possible improvement:

1. The Secretariat of the COP submitted a document on its "medium term strategy" in the last two COPs. Matching the two strategies would reveal an unwanted deep overlap and may be duplication.
2. The exact role of the Facilitation Committee pertaining to the strategy seems to require further clarification. As stated in para. 27, support and advice are not well defined and may be illusive terms.
3. The priority setting of the strategy as given in para. 21 still needs some elaboration. Undoubtedly, resources of the GM would always be shorter than requests by parties, even African. Then what kinds of indicators are used to justify giving party x and denying party y?

GUINEA ECUATORIAL

Ministerio de Agricultura
Instituto Nacional de Recursos Naturales (INRENA)

Sobre la estrategia operacional del Mecanismo Mundial de la C.L.D.

Quiero decirles que he seguido el documento sobre la estrategia operacional del Mecanismo Mundial de la C.L.D. Mi opinión está sobre los países Africanos, y se da prioridad a los que sufren la sequía y los de las zonas áridas, mi preocupación es que en los países de zona tropical no tocadas por la desertificación es necesario prevenir la degrades la biodiversidad ya que con el tiempo si se desaparece la biodiversidad el bosque va a degradarse y se puede producir una posible desertificación.

KENYA

National Environment secretariat

Global Mechanism: Review of policies, operational modalities and activities

Kenya would like to commend the efforts of the Managing Director of the Global Mechanism in his effort to fulfilling his mandate as set out by the Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD) and the Conference of the Parties.

Kenya would also like to endorse the recommendations of the First review of policies, operational modalities and activities on GM of the Conference of Parties at its Third Session, held in Recife, 15-26 November 1999 as contained in the decision 9/COP.3.

Having reviewed the Operational Strategy for the Global Mechanism as Contained in the document ICCD/COP(3)/CRP.3, we would like to make the following additional recommendations:

A. Policies:

Recognizing that the first priority for the GM is to develop its operations as a demand-driven mechanism to facilitate mobilization and channelling of substantial financial resources for the elaboration of action programmes, particularly at national levels, we recommend that:

1. The Managing Director of GM expeditiously implement this mandate and further develop a comprehensive Plan of Action that details on how the parties can access the identified and available resources for the support of the national action programmes. This can be in a form of regular communication to the parties.
2. In order to ensure sustainability of local and national programmes, the GM support with greater effort the capitalization of National Desertification Funds (NDF) and in particular march partners for the purpose of strengthening the NDFs and making them relevant to the local problems.
3. Since the formulation of National Action Programmes is a dynamic process, the GM needs to identify funds, which should be available to support activities on action programming. This is essential because production of quality action programmes is the only sure way of attracting funding from donors.
4. That, while the GM endeavours to promote and facilitate multi-source and multi-channel financing for the implementation of the Convention, there is need to provide a regular report on the identified bilateral donor agencies and multilateral financial institutions, private sector and other non-governmental

sources of financing. Such reports should enable developing parties to identify an appropriate partner or donor for particular programmes.

MADAGASCAR

Ministère de l'Environnement

Décision 9/COP.3 (point 13): Stratégie opérationnelle du Mécanisme Mondial

Le Gouvernement malgache n'a pas d'observations particulières concernant la stratégie opérationnelle du Mécanisme Mondial. Toutefois, notre pays souhaite l'opérationnalité effective de ce Mécanisme Mondial dans les meilleurs délais pour pouvoir lutter efficacement contre le fléau qu'est la désertification en Afrique, et ce par la mise en œuvre rapide et efficace de sa stratégie opérationnelle dès son adoption.

MALI

Ambassade de la République du Mali en Italie

Commentaires sur la stratégie opérationnelle du Mécanisme Mondial.

1. Nous partageons entièrement les idées-forces dégagées par le document, et saluons la qualité du travail réalisé.
2. La communication et la sensibilisation en vue de promouvoir une meilleure connaissance du Mécanisme et de sa stratégie opérationnelle nous paraissent très importantes, et méritent qu'on y accorde plus d'attention, afin que les pays parties soient situés sur leur implication et le mode opératoire du mécanisme. A cet égard nous souhaitons attirer l'attention sur la traduction faite du terme marketing en français, à savoir commercialisation en page 11 (paragraphe 9). Le terme commercialisation utilisé ne reflète pas du tout ce que l'on entend par marketing ici. Il nous semble qu'il s'agit plutôt de vendre l'image ou promouvoir l'image du Mécanisme qui est visé. Alors nous proposons de revoir ce passage, et suggérons de le remplacer par: promotion de l'image et sensibilisation....
3. Domaines d'intervention du Mécanisme Mondial: Le niveau ou échelon international est également à prendre en considération, en plus des échelons évoqués.
4. Le Comité de facilitation a un rôle très important à jouer dans l'intervention du Mécanisme et la mise en œuvre de sa stratégie, aussi son mode de fonctionnement, et les règles qui le sous-tendent gagneraient à être beaucoup plus explicites.

PERU

Punto Focal Nacional para la Convención de las Naciones Unidas de Lucha Contra la Desertificación

Estrategia Operacional del Mecanismo Mundial de la Convención de las Naciones Unidas de Lucha Contra la Desertificación

Introducción

El Mecanismo Mundial ha presentado una Estrategia Operacional provisional en la que presenta las principales funciones, junto con el planteamiento y la estrategia que adoptará para cumplir con esas funciones. El Mecanismo Mundial de la CLD tiene como objetivo aumentar la corriente de recursos para la aplicación de la Convención incrementar al mismo tiempo la eficacia y la eficiencia de los mecanismos financieros disponibles. Consideramos que es un

documento muy valioso y que en términos generales cumple con el propósito de informar y hacer conocer a los Interesados sobre el Mecanismo Mundial y sus líneas de acción, sin embargo consideramos sería pertinente detallar mayor información, respecto a los puntos que se señalan mas adelante.

Análisis del documento

El documento presentado debe considerarse, conforme se indica en la introducción, una estrategia provisional, sujeta a ser actualizada oportunamente. En el Contexto del documento, el ítem e) señala que las razones para promover en la Convención la participación activa de las organizaciones locales se destacan diversos aspectos reconocidos por la Convención, tales como acervo de conocimientos de la población local y el papel de las mujeres en la gestión de recursos. Sin embargo sería pertinente destacar explícitamente otros elementos, también reconocidos por la Convención, como son la Recuperación y Aplicación de Conocimientos y Tecnologías Tradicionales, como parte de los sistemas de Alerta Temprana y conservación de ecosistemas, que para caso de nuestros países resultan fundamentales como elementos preventivos.

En el ítem d) señala que la Convención resalta la importancia de la financiación para alcanzar los objetivos y además pone en relieve la conveniencia de explorar métodos de canje de deuda por naturaleza, particularizando a los países del África. Después de la COP 3 de Recife quedó establecido que el problema de Desertificación es mundial y que todos los países de los cinco continentes debemos trabajar juntos en la lucha contra la Desertificación.

En este sentido, reconociendo que el África es el continente que más sufre el problema, consideramos que el Mecanismo Mundial, por principio, en la búsqueda de soluciones y métodos eficaces debe mantener una visión global y no particularizar su misión o alcances en un solo Continente.

Sobre las funciones del Mecanismo Mundial:

Con relación a la esfera funcional 1: Promoción de actividades que conduzcan a la cooperación y la coordinación.

Creación de lazos de asociación: Consideramos conveniente que además de que el MM explique como funciona el proceso de reciprocidad, explique la operatividad de esta asociación. Consideramos que el establecimiento de una Red de instituciones a nivel nacional e internacional para un intercambio activo de información podría ser financiado por el Mecanismo Mundial.

En el ítem 8. sobre Comercialización y concientización, se podría señalar más específicamente el tema de comercialización en la plataforma propuesta.

En la esfera funcional, 2: Movilización y encauzamiento de recursos financieros.

9. Movilización: Es necesario que se brinde mayor información sobre cuales son considerados como recursos financieros y técnicos suplementarios y cuales son los mecanismos del MM para acceder a ellos.

Esfera operacional 4: Reunión y difusión de información.

13. La Base de datos: Considerar que las bases de datos actuales pueden diferir una de la otra, siendo por lo tanto recomendable analizar la posibilidad de incluir un análisis de Bases de Datos operativas, a fin de unificar criterios así como utilizar los tipos informáticos de acuerdo a su versatilidad a nivel mundial.

14. Promoción de la tecnología: El Perú es un país de ancestral experiencia en la lucha contra la Desertificación y manejo de Biodiversidad, por lo que posee información sobre tecnologías, conocimientos, aptitudes y prácticas pertinentes. En tal sentido tenemos interés en que el MM proporcione mayor detalle sobre la promoción de la financiación así como su respectiva implementación para la ejecución de los temas relacionados a los mencionados puntos.

Comentario final:

El documento pone de manifiesto la estrategia operacional del Mecanismo Mundial, institución que constituye una idea innovadora para operativizar y agilizar las acciones de lucha contra la desertificación en el mundo.

En este sentido el MM resulta siendo muy importante y que debe ser apoyado, de manera que logre consolidar su estrategia de acción y que esta se oriente a la atención global de la Lucha contra la Desertificación y sequía.

PORTUGAL ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION AND ITS MEMBER STATES

Operational Strategy of the Global Mechanism (ICCD/COP(3)/CRP.3)

1. The Community and the Member States consider the Global Mechanism (GM) a valuable vehicle for the implementation of the Convention. Regarding document ICCD/COP(3)/CRP.3, we think that it is, in general, well structured, grouping the functions of the GM defined by COP 1 under a comprehensible structure of seven clusters retaining the four functional headings of the annex to decision 24/COP 1. However, it needs a better definition of the priorities to be pursued and some guidance on how to proceed to attain them.

2. We note that the Managing Director will prepare a more specified document on the operational strategy for consideration at COP 4. We hope that this document will contain further details on the objectives to be achieved, concrete activities to be undertaken, the time schedules to be followed, and the benchmarks and indicators against which to measure the progress. In setting these out, the Managing Director should take account of the fact that the COP at its sixth session will conduct its second review of the policies, operational modalities and activities of the GM.

3. The document recapitulates the guiding principles of the GM as being a demand-driven, non monopolistic entity that is playing a catalytic and brokering role in promoting and facilitating multi-source, multi-channel financing for the implementation of the Convention. We would like to emphasise that, even if one of the principles that guides the GM activity relies on a demand-driven attitude to the needs and priorities articulated by the affected Parties, this responsiveness should also be understood in a pro-active manner. Otherwise, we run the risk of having a too passive way of assisting the putting into practice of the Convention by one of its key institutions.

4. We sensed quite a strong focus on using "own resources" for implementation purposes (cf. op. 9-12). Through the contribution of its host organization (Special Resources for CCD Finance 1 SRCF), the GM does have at least some financial mass to act with, and in decision 24/COP.1, annex, subsection 4, (f), the Parties decided how to utilize these means. However, it is our understanding that the mediating/brokering and clearinghouse role of the GM should be at the center of its activities. It is not an implementing mechanism. As a general way of action, the use of the GM's own resources should be directed towards mobilizing further resources to assist the implementation of the Convention (as it is partially indicated in op. 10 and 18).

5. Regarding the Enabling Activities proposed in the Operational Strategy (cf. op. 25), we are quite confident and optimistic that donors, institutions and agencies take full advantage of their experience and expertise, and provide adequate funds to promoting dialogue and exchange of experience between the local resource users and all other relevant stakeholders in the process of implementing the Convention. In view of this, we would be grateful for further information from the Managing Director on how the GM would be able to add value in this regard.

6. As far as support for action programming (cf. op. 24) is concerned, we appreciate the facilitating role of the OM. Taking into account how the process of CCD implementation is evolving, we think that at the moment the focus should mainly be on the national level. In this respect, work to mainstream resource plans and flows for desertification within national development priorities and plans should be a priority for the Mechanism. While support to the sub regional, and especially to the regional level, might also be undertaken now, it is more likely to grow in importance as the implementation process matures.

7. We would like to see the role of the Facilitation Committee members strengthened. At the moment, the Committee seems to be concerned principally with the functions of the Global Mechanism itself. But we believe its greatest added value lies in how Committee members will mainstream desertification actions and policies into their own organisations' work. We would like to know more of how this process is proceeding in the reports of the Committee member organisations to the COP.

8. Regarding the Strategic Initiatives that are mentioned in the document (ref. op. 26), we, basically, support the active role of the OM in exploring new and innovative financing for the implementation of the Convention. In our view, however, it is important to see things in as realistic and feasible a view as possible. In order to make sure that land degradation and desertification issues are being considered in other activities to combat poverty (such as the HIPC initiative), integration of the national CCD Focal Points into the process of elaborating the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) on the national level is strongly recommended.

9. In addition, the role of the OM in following and trying to tap these kinds of initiatives (the Clean Development Mechanism would be another example) for CCD matters should not be highlighted as a panacea to the financial needs for effective CCD implementation. This might easily lead to expectations that cannot be fulfilled. Rather, those initiatives and their potential for the CCD should be perceived as options to be further explored. In addition, it should be pinpointed that the catalyst and brokering role of the OM will continue to revolve around the existing mechanisms of financing for development cooperation.

10. Finally, we welcome the efforts already undertaken by the OM to collect and disseminate information. We continue to believe that, at this early stage in OM's existence, it should seek further information and understanding of the global resources being applied and available for desertification-related activities. This could provide useful lessons for all Parties, for example, on the complementarity and effectiveness of the use of resources, on funding gaps, etc. As part of this process, the GM also needs to consider indicators of its own performance. Information on current financial flows to Convention-related activities could be an important indicator for the OM. This could, if necessary, be broken down into more detail, e.g. on support for NAPs, Desertification Funds, Partnership Agreements, etc. This underlines the importance of the establishment of a database. In our view, it is important - as the document highlights - that this database will be built on pre-existing databases. We recommend that in setting up its database, the OM takes full advantage of, for example, the Dryland Knowledge Node of the World Bank (cf. decision 25/COP.1, annex, op. 9 (a)) and the OECD DAC.

SENEGAL

Point Focal National UNCCD

Stratégie opérationnelle du Mécanisme Mondial

Je voudrais vous rassurer que l'examen de la stratégie telle que formulée actuellement intègre parfaitement notre compréhension du Mécanisme Mondial et la perception que nous avons de son fonctionnement.

Par conséquent, je n'ai pas d'observation particulière.

TURKEY

Ministry of Environment
General Directorate of Environmental Protection

Operational Strategy of the Global Mechanism of the UNCCD

We are in agreement about the decision taken in Recife, Brazil on the Global Mechanism. The Global Mechanism should function under the guidance of the COP and be accountable to it. It should become a demand-driven mechanism to facilitate resource mobilization and channelling for the elaboration and implementation of action programmes. The Global Mechanism Managing Director should complete staff recruitment before COP 4 and it should develop an information and communication strategy aimed at facilitating contact with Parties and others to increase awareness of the CCD.

TURKMENISTAN

National Institute of Deserts, Flora and Fauna

In respect to the operational strategy of the GM

We have no additional comments to the Operational Strategy of the Global Mechanism of the UNCCD, which was discussed at the third session of the Conference of the Parties.

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